AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions,
and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of managing the rights
to digital media, comprising:

acting in a network environment, wherein the network
environment includes a plurality of computers and one or more
items of digital media loadable onto one or more of the
computers,

each item of digital media having [[a]] (a) an
allocated license number and ~~installed with~~ (b) a user agent
associated with the item of digital media,

each user agent programmed to (i) initialize and
control the loading of the digital media, (ii) control the
operation of the item of digital media, (iii) broadcast network
data packets containing the allocated license number information
of the digital media loaded by that user agent to the network
environment, and (iv) detect network data packets containing
license number information of other digital media broadcast by
other user agents in others of said computers on the ~~in a~~ network
environment, wherein, ~~comprising:~~

at initialization of the digital media having [[a]] an
allocated license number and installed with [[a]] the user agent

on one of said computers, the user agent ~~detecting~~ detects other network data packets ~~(202)~~ and then looks for the ~~containing~~ license number information of the other ~~such~~ digital media broadcast by other user agents in others of said computers on the network environment, and when the detected license number is identical to the license number of the digital media being initialized by the user agent, the user agent (a) preventing initialization of the digital media continuing on that computer, and (b) broadcasting to the network environment a packet with the target being another computer running a user agent associated with the same digital media license number and with content of the broadcast network packet containing a "halt" command, receiving the "halt" command in the other computer which had broadcast the same license number, and causing the other computer to shut down the associated digital media instance, and ~~including~~ ~~programs running on the network and; when the detected license~~ ~~number is identical (203) to that being initialized preventing~~ ~~initialization continuing (204),~~

at the initialization of the digital media having the allocated license number and installed with the user agent on one of said computers, the user agent i) detects no packets or ~~when~~ detects a packet and the detected license number associated therewith is not identical to ~~that~~ the license number of the digital media being initialized by the user agent, allowing digital media initialization by the user agent ~~(205)~~ and ~~then~~

broadcasting the license number into the network (206) in a data packet.

2. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the digital media once initialized replicates onwards packets from other instances of the digital media accessed or running elsewhere on the network.

3. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the digital media is a program running on the network.

4. (cancelled).

5. (currently amended) A method of generating a license number for digital media as claimed in claim 1 comprising the further steps of:

generating a unique license code (101, 102);

generating from the license code a verification code and concatenating this to the license code (104); and

encrypting the concatenated code (105) and dispersing the concatenated code ~~it~~ with the digital media (106, 108).

6. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 5 further comprising the step of generating a user code from the encrypted code.

7. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the user agent is embedded in a multimedia file or disc (106).

8. (currently amended) A computer when running a user agent of digital media containing a license code, which user

agent on initialization recognizes other instances of the digital media on the network, a comparator which compares the license code of other instances of the digital media on the network with the license code of the initializing version, an initialization invocation which initializes the digital media and broadcasts the digital media license code if the license code is not found and a detector which detects a positive comparison and prevents initialization of the digital media when an identical license code is found_and also broadcasts a "halt" instruction to the originating user agent.

9. (previously presented) A computer as claimed in claim 8 wherein the comparator may also detect a "halt" instruction from an initialization invocation on a computer which is using an identical license code.

10. (cancelled).

11. (previously presented) A computer as claimed in claim 8 wherein the user agent is invoked from a multimedia disc or file.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein, the license number of the digital media comprises a license code and a verification code.